

## Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 PC-01 AID-05 OPR-01 A-01 NIC-01 IO-10

SY-04 OC-01 CCO-00 /075 W  
----- 035713

P 260840Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3047

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASMARA 0991

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ASMARA SITUATION REPORT

REF A. ASMARA 986; B. ASMARA 988

1. IL QUOTIDIANO ERITREA OF 26 DEC CARRIED AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE DIRG OF THE NORTH. IT REPORTED THAT ON EVENING OF 23 DEC SEVEN PEOPLE DIED (INCLUDING ONE WOMAN) AND THREE WERE WOUNDED (INCLUDING ONE WOMAN) AS RESULT OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS. THE ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED THE DEATHS TO THE PASSIVE ATTITUDE OF THE GENERAL POPULATION TO OUTLAWS AND THE LACK OF COOPERATION GIVEN SECURITY FORCES AND THE ARMED FORCES BY THE POPULATION. COMMENT: POPULAR OPINION IN ASMARA BELIEVES THAT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMITTED THE MURDERS. REPORTS INDICATE THAT SOME OF THE VICTIMS WERE STRANGLERED. SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE ARE STILL BEING HELD UNDER ARREST FROM THE INCIDENT ON 22 DEC. THIS MORNING SOLDIERS ARE ADMINISTERING HAIRCUTS TO ANYONE WITH HAIR THEY CONSIDER TOO LONG.  
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IN PRESENT ENVIRONMENT OF FEAR, REPORTS OF PEOPLE DEAD AND MISSING

ARE RUNNING RAMPANT. GIVEN TENOR OF DIRG ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ERITREANS,  
OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS OF EVENTS AND CASUALTIES SHOULD NOT BE  
ACCEPTED AT FACE VALUE.

2. IL QUOTIDIANO ERITREA OF 26 DEC. CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON THE  
VISIT OF BG BERHANE TEFERRA, ETHIOPIAN POLICE COMMISSIONER, TO  
UNITS OF THE ERITREAN COMMANDO POLICE ON 25 DEC.

3. ASMARA IS VERY TENSE. WHILE OFFICIAL CURFEW IS 2400 TO 0500,  
OVER HALF OF PEOPLE ON STREETS AFTER 2000 ARE SECURITY FORCES.  
SCATTERED SHOOTING AFTER DARK IS BECOMING THE NORM FOR ASMARA.  
ASMARA POLICE WHO NORMALLY PROVIDE SECURITY OUTSIDE CONGEN  
COMPOUND HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY SOLDIERS.  
PERRY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRORIST, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ASMARA00991  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740374-0912  
**From:** ASMARA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741211/aaaaaisn.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 74 ASMARA 986, 74 ASMARA 988  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by shawdg>  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASMARA SITUATION REPORT  
**TAGS:** PINS, ET  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005